

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 4, 2004

The Honorable Don Young  
Chairman, Committee on  
Transportation & Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James L. Oberstar  
Ranking Member, Committee on  
Transportation & Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thomas E. Petri  
Chairman, Subcommittee on  
Highways, Transit & Pipelines  
B370A Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable William O. Lipinski  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on  
Highways, Transit & Pipelines  
B370A Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

The members of the Indiana Delegation would like to take the opportunity to express our appreciation to you and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for recognizing the importance of legislation to reauthorize our nation's highway and transit programs, and working to approve such legislation. In particular, we value your efforts to address the concerns of donor states and to better meet our national transportation needs.

While H.R. 3055, the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA-LU) has not yet been reported from Committee, there are two provisions of particular concern to our Members found in Section 1104. In Section 1104(b), which describes the parameters of the Minimum Guarantee scope, we have concerns about the programmatic coverage of the Minimum Guarantee. While we appreciate the increase of the rate of return to 95% by FY09, we are concerned that the overall rate of return on dollars contributed to the Highway Trust Fund will be much lower for Indiana, since the percentage of funding covered by the Guarantee is significantly reduced from that included in TEA 21. We ask that all current programs, new programs and project designations be included in the Minimum Guarantee calculation.

In addition, should the bill not be fully funded, the "Special Rule" found in Section 1104(f) would reduce the increases in the size of the Minimum Guarantee back to the TEA 21 rate of 90.5%. Obviously, this would prove to be a costly reduction in the rate of return for Indiana, and we request that this provision be removed.

We are ready to work with the Committee in addressing these critically important issues. Improving the overall rate of return from the Highway Trust Fund is essential, and remains Indiana's top priority. Your attention and response to these issues are

appreciated and we look forward to the passage of this legislation by the full House in the near future.

Sincerely,



Baron P. Hill



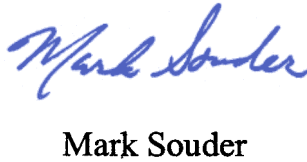
John Hostettler



Mike Pence



Chris Chocola



Mark Souder



Dan Burton



Peter Visclosky



Julia Carson



Steve Buyer